PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	**BOWERMAN, Hugh G. et al.**	Examiner:	To Be Assigned
Serial No.	To Be Assigned	Group Art Unit:	To Be Assigned
Filed:	Herewith (May 3, 2006)	Docket No.	91350-011600/US
Title:	**TRAFFIC CONTROL BARRIERS**		

MAIL STOP PCT (DO/EO/US)
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application prior to substantive examination as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please insert the following paragraph after the title:

This application is a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. 371 of International Application PCT/GB2004/004419 filed on October 20, 2004 which claims priority from Great Britain Application No: 0325693.0, filed on November 4, 2003. The entire teachings of the referenced application is incorporated herein by reference. International Application PCT/GB2004/004419 was published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.

TRAFFIC CONTROL BARRIERS

ABSTRACT

A traffic control barrier comprises at least two side-by-side elongate solid blocks whose sides are detachably connected together by one or more metallic connectors. The longitudinal axis of the or each connector extends in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of each block and in plain view, each block may be generally elliptical or rectangular.

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A traffic control barrier which comprises at least two side-by-side elongate solid blocks each housed within a metallic casing whose sides are detachably connected together by one or more metallic connectors, the longitudinal axis of the or each connector extending in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of each block.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in claim 1 ~~wherein the metallic connectors~~ wherein the metallic connectors are rigid.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein in plan view, each block is generally elliptical ~~or rectangular~~.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein pads of a compressible material are positioned below block.

Claim 5 (original): A barrier as claimed in claim 4 wherein the undersurface of each pad has a relatively high coefficient of friction.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~ wherein the pads are positioned at locations at or adjacent to block ends.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in ~~any one of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4 wherein additional pads are positioned at locations intermediate to the block ends.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in ~~any one of claims 4 to 7~~ claim 4 wherein ~~neighbouring~~ neighboring pads are spaced apart such that their total length is less than that of the respective block.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the underside of each block ~~and/or each pad~~ is formed with a series of ridges or grooves to increase the contact stress between the block and the surface on which it is mounted.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the blocks are produced wholly or predominantly from a cementitious material.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein one or more metal rods are welded to opposed internal surfaces of the metallic casing such that the or each rod extends across the width of the casing with its ends secured to the opposed surfaces.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in claim 11 wherein the longitudinal axis of the ~~or each~~ welded rod is substantially normal to the longitudinal axis of the casing.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A barrier as claimed in claim 11 ~~or claim 13~~ wherein the rods are welded at their ends to the casing wails by a friction welding technique.

Claim 14 (original): A traffic control barrier which comprises at least two side-by-side elongate solid blocks whose sides are detachably connected together by one or more metallic connectors, the longitudinal axis of the or each connector extending in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of each block.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of producing a dismountable traffic control barrier which comprises transporting to a given site two or more elongate blocks each produced by casting a cementitious material into an elongate metallic housing whose side walls are interconnected by metallic rods or bars which extend in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the housing, positioning these blocks side-by-side across an area from which traffic is to be excluded, and securing each block to the or each ~~neighbouring~~ neighboring block by one or more metallic connectors in a detachable manner.

Claim 16 (new): A barrier as claimed in claim 1 wherein in plan view, each block is generally rectangular.

Claim 17 (new): A barrier as claimed in claim 1 wherein the underside of each pad is formed with a series of ridges or grooves to increase the contact stress between the block and the surface on which it is mounted.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the originally filed Claims 1-15 and added new Claims 16-17. Claims 1-17 are now pending for this application. These changes and additions were made to improve the structure and format of the claims. No new matter has been added.

Any additional fees required in connection with this communication which are not specifically provided for herewith are authorized to be charged to the Deposit Account No. 50-2638 in the name of Greenberg Traurig LLP. Any overpayments are also authorized to be credited to this account. Please ensure that Attorney Docket Number 91350-011600 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 3, 2006

___/Margo Maddux/_____
Margo Maddux
Reg. No. 50,962

Customer Number 33717
GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP
2450 Colorado Avenue, Suite 400E
Santa Monica, CA 90404
Phone: (310) 586-7700
Fax: (310) 586-7800
E-mail: LAIPmail@gtlaw.com